

Landmark Commission Meeting  
Mantua Village Hall  
March 5, 2016

#### Call to order

Chair Nick Ehlert called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

#### Roll Call

Commissioners: Eric Hummel, Terri Vechery, Helen Hazlett, Carole Pollard, Nick Ehlert and Renee Henry were present.

Renee Henry motioned that Hal Stamm be excused. Carole Pollard seconded the motion. All approved.

#### Reading of the Minutes

Renee Henry had e-mailed everyone the January 9, 2016 Minutes for review.

Nick Ehlert asked if there were any corrections. Carole Pollard noted that Christine Pitsinger writes for the *Community Journal* instead of the *Mantua Matters*. Eric Hummel motioned the Minutes be approved as corrected. Terri Vechery seconded. All approved.

#### Old Business

Terri Vechery said since she writes for the *Community Journal*, she can submit an article to that paper and also to *Mantua Matters*.

#### Hiram Internship

Terri Vechery reported that the two interns are Charles Sanders and Jacob Dengg. Jacob is a senior and will be graduating this May. Hiram College takes care of their time cards. They are on spring break now.

Charles and Jacob are very enthusiastic and have started working on the inventory with Terry. They meet Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Another person who has graciously offered her expertise and guidance is Beth Hudson, who was introduced to Terri by Eric Hummel, and has been an Abstractor for many years. Terri, Jacob and Charles are very happy for her help.

They begin the research on the Portage County Auditor's and Recorder's pages on the Portage County web site and then visit the County Tax Map office in the County Administrative building in Ravenna and the Portage County Records office on Infirmary Road.

With the tax number they start researching the deeds. For example, to research one deed, they had to look in 15 books because the chain of ownership had split. She noted that not all chains will be so long or complicated, but a number of them could be. In this instance one of the chains led to a dead end, while the other led back to Amzi Atwater. Amzi Atwater had been given Mantua Township as payment for his surveying work. Many of his relatives in turn received land from Amzi Atwater.

As a side note, Atwater Township is not named after Amzi Atwater.

When asked what year Amzi received this property, Terri wasn't sure: perhaps 1846 or earlier. The Village of Mantua was formed from part of the Township. Terri found a book in the Portage County Library The Bicentennial Atlas of Portage County which has information on the early settlers of Mantua Township.

Since there were no building permits for many of the early years of the county, the way to tell about when a house appeared on the property is by noting what year the tax for that property increased.

She said another way that Beth Hudson has been very helpful is in helping with the cost of making copies of the records. With Beth's code, instead of costing \$2 a copy, the cost is \$0.16. The

Landmark Commission will reimburse Beth.

The interns have the inventory form on a word doc. Once the forms are completed, Beth Hudson will review them for accuracy at no charge. The Commission was very pleased to hear about the extent of Beth's help and agree that she is a godsend.

Helen Hazlett asked if the research should be limited to buildings built up to 1945. Terri didn't feel this would be helpful since the majority of structures were probably built before then. After 1945 there haven't been that many new buildings.

Terri Vechery said she is personally starting her research on Woodford Street and is looking forward to moving on to Maple Dell. (She has spoken to Charlie English about having the Mantua Station listed and he is very interested since he would like the building to be preserved.) The interns are working on other properties.

Eric Hummel asked about approaching property owners to do interviews. Terri Vechery said we'd need to put together a packet that would include a cover letter and the Request for Local Listing form from the Landmark Commission's binder.

Eric asked whether the internship program will continue fall semester. When the internship program was introduced to Council, it was explained that the internship would be for the spring and fall semesters. In addition, the Hiram College grant is for 2 years. Eric asked that to be sure that when Terri speaks to Council about the interns she should reaffirm the program is for multiple semesters. The summers are excluded because the Village would have to pay the FICA tax.

Terri said that the interns should be able to attend the next Mantua Village Council meeting with her on March 15 since they will be back from spring break.

Eric asked if there would be data available at the next Landmark Commission meeting in May. Terri said yes.

Carole Pollard suggested Matt Merchant of the Record Courier be contacted and asked to do an article with perhaps a picture to let people know about the inventory project that is being done on behalf of the Landmark Commission and the Mantua Village Council.

#### Century Home Plaque

Nick Ehlert said his wife, Linda, had information on the website where plaques can be ordered. They can be made of plastic, bronze or aluminum and the price varies depending on which is ordered. When preparing packets to be given to interested property owners, information on how to obtain plaques can be included. Nick will ask Linda to forward this information to Renee Henry.

#### Annual Report

Renee distributed the 2015 Annual Report that she had given to Mantua Village Council in January.

#### Landmark Commission Contact Sheet

Renee Henry handed out an updated contact sheet. She will correct Carole Pollard's phone number which had been copied incorrectly.

#### New Business

##### Historic Architecture Talk

Helen Hazlett will reach out to an architectural expert, Chris Boebinger, and see if he will be available to speak in June or July, preferably on a Wednesday or Thursday evening at 7 pm. This event will be open to the public. Chris will speak at no charge.

Chris has requested that some pictures of local homes and buildings be provided beforehand so that he can talk about their architectural features.

The Hilltop Church will probably be the venue as it has a basement for refreshments and if needed, the presentation can be done in the sanctuary with the projector. Other possible venues could be the Masonic Lodge or one of the Crestwood school buildings.

Helen will see about coordinating with the DMRC, Chamber of Commerce and Rotary to help support and advertise the Historic Architecture talk.

To help advertise the event a flyer will be prepared that can be posted throughout the community. In addition the flyer may be distributed to residents through a bulk mailing that costs \$0.16 each. Terri Vechery is to check with the Mantua Post Office for details on how many would be needed and to firm up the cost.

Articles will also appear in the *Community Journal*, *Mantua Matters* and the *Record Courier*.

Terri and Eric will take some photographs of homes that can be used for both the flyer and to provide Chris Boebinger with examples of local architecture that he can talk about during his presentation. They will give the photos to Helen Hazlett. She offered to create a brochure to explain the Mantua Village Landmark Commission and how to list property and the advantages of doing so.

During the discussions regarding hosting a guest speaker and the internship program it has come to the Commission's attention that there are costs that will need to be defrayed for postage or copies. How these expenses will be paid needs to be addressed. Some ideas that were presented include:

- Charge a small fee to hear the guest speaker
- Inquire if a donation can be made from either the Chamber of Commerce, DMRC and/or Rotary
- Request that Council create a line in the Village's budget
- Once property owners express an interest in the Local Listing application or a Century Home plaque, offer to provide the abstract information for a fee.
- Determine what amount is necessary to cover our expenses

Once Terri speaks with the Post Office she will be better able to tell what the cost of the bulk mailing to advertise the Historic Architecture presentation would be.

The Commission isn't in favor of charging for the Historic Architecture talk.

#### Agenda for May 7 Meeting

Information gathered by Interns

Budget

Historic Architecture Talk with Chris Boebinger

At 11:45 Nick asked the meeting be adjourned. Eric Hummel moved the meeting be adjourned and Carole Pollard seconded it. All approved.

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Nick Ehlert, Chair Landmark Commission

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Renee Henry, Secretary Landmark Commission